



Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

Consumer Services Department

Office of the Director
140 West Flagler Street, Suite 903
Miami, Florida 33130-1561
T 305-375-1250 F 305-372-6308
consumer@miamidade.gov
www.miamidade.gov/csd

miamidade.gov

March 31, 2010

To: Taxi Passenger Service Companies

From: Cathy Grimes Peel, Director, Consumer Services Department

RE: Prohibition against compensation for right to pick-up passengers.

Dear Valued Customers.

It has been brought to our attention that Passenger Service Company dispatchers may be engaged in the practice of requiring payment from drivers in order to receive more lucrative trips while those that do not pay are dispatched less desirable trips. This practice is prohibited. It is the company's responsibility to insure that this does not occur.

The purpose of this letter is to outline the requirements of the Code of Miami Dade County regarding compensation for the right to pick up passengers. Chapter 31, Sections 31-76 and 31-85 of the Code prohibit the payment of compensation for the right to pick up passengers.

Section 31-76 Prohibition against compensation for right to pick-up passengers.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any passenger service company, for-hire license holder, chauffeur or operator of any passenger vehicle for hire or any other person directly or indirectly to provide compensation in any form to any individual or entity or engage in any activity in connection with the payment of compensation for the right to pick up passengers or provide for-hire passenger service from any hotel, motel, apartment, restaurant, nightclub, bar, school, hospital, convalescent home, medical clinic or any other business establishment, or public facility. The license, registration or certificate of any passenger service company, for-hire license holder, chauffeur or operator of any passenger vehicle for hire violating this provision shall be subject to suspension up to twelve (12) months for the first violation and shall be subject to revocation for repeat violations in accordance with the provisions of the Code.

(b) It shall be a violation of this article for any individual or entity to accept compensation in any form, either directly or indirectly, from any passenger service company, for-hire license holder, chauffeur or operator of any passenger vehicle for hire or any other person for the right to pick up passengers or provide for-hire passenger service from any hotel, motel, apartment, restaurant, nightclub, bar, school, hospital, convalescent home, medical clinic or any other business establishment or public facility.

Section 31-85- Rules for Operation.

(j) (1) No passenger service company, for-hire license holder, chauffeur or any other person shall directly or indirectly provide compensation in any form to any individual or entity or engage in any activity in connection

with the payment of compensation for the right to pick up passengers or provide taxicab service from any hotel, motel, apartment, restaurant, nightclub, bar, or any other business establishment, or public facility. The license or registration of any passenger service company, for-hire license holder or chauffeur violating this provision shall be subject to suspension for up to twelve (12) months for the first violation and shall be subject to revocation for repeat violations in accordance with the provisions of Section 31-91 or other appropriate enforcement action as provided in this article.

(2) It shall be a violation of this article for any individual or entity to accept compensation in any form, either directly or indirectly, from any passenger service company, for-hire license holder, chauffeur or any other person for the right to pick up passengers or provide taxicab service from any hotel, motel, apartment, restaurant, nightclub, bar, or any other business establishment or public facility.

The sections above would apply to any employee of any Passenger Service Company who requires or otherwise receives compensation from a chauffeur in order for the chauffeur to receive trips from the company via dispatch service. Violations of these sections may result in the issuance of citations to both the Passenger Service Company as well as the individual employee.

The penalties for violations of Sections 31-76 and 31-85 are as follows:

First violation: \$1,000.00 when committed by any corporation, partnership or other legal entity other than an individual and \$750.00 when committed by any individual;

Subsequent violations: \$2,000.00 when committed by any corporation, partnership or other legal entity other than an individual and \$1,500.00 when committed by any individual.

Please distribute this notice to your dispatchers and other employees and ensure their understanding of this prohibition. If you have any questions regarding these requirements, contact Joe Mora, Director, Passenger Transportation Regulatory Division at 305.375.4578